

Kailua Christian Church

Sunday Message

Sun. January 24, 2021

Pastor Dale Vallejo-Sanderson

**“Healing, Health and Helping”**

*Vision for a new season*

*<sup>25</sup> And a lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>26</sup> And He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?” <sup>27</sup> And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>28</sup> And He said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this and you will live.” <sup>29</sup> But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”*

*<sup>30</sup> Jesus replied and said, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went away leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> And by chance a priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> Likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.*

*<sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, <sup>34</sup> and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> On the next day he took out two-denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.’*

*<sup>36</sup> Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers’ hands?” <sup>37</sup> And he said, “The one who showed mercy toward him.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do-the same.” Luke 10:25-37 NASB*

*When Jesus encountered this man, a learned lawyer of religious law, who asked questions of Jesus, likely intended to challenge Him, Jesus asked him questions. Jesus saw his heart and like many of us at different times in our lives, we may know God’s truth, yet we are not always sure how or ready to live into the way of Christ.*

*This past fall I was reading and reflecting on this passage in Luke 10, when I heard in my heart, what I felt was God’s whisper saying to me; “Don’t pass them by, you can be of help to them, and they to you.” You, Kailua Christian Church family, came to mind to me immediately. You had been on my heart and prayers over the years as you have found your way through some real challenges. I spoke to Bev immediately, and it resonated with her as something God was putting on her heart as well. We sat with this word for a couple of days, not knowing where you were in your search process for a pastor.*

*Then Paul, as chair of the Pastoral Search team called and said the committee had asked him to contact me and see if I would consider the call as your pastor. That came as a great encouragement to Bev and I to take the steps to follow through with the interviews and process that has brought us to this day of new beginnings.*

*I am reminded at this time today with you of another time in my life of new beginnings in my journey of following Christ and in our Pastoral ministry. It was nearly 20 years ago as Bev and I were considering with others to start a new church. We were invited to an assessment process by the Covenant Denomination for planting a new church. It was with 8 other pastor couples and about 15 leaders, pastors, psychologist and spiritual directors who interview, observe and engage in conversation with us as a couple. They were there to do their best to discern God's gifting, calling and abilities for planting a new church. It was in Atlanta, Georgia, and critical that we be there on time for the whole week long process.*

*Bev and I initially intended to arrive a couple days early to be rested and adjusted, but we got bumped by the airlines. They moved us to the next day, and again bumped. Finally, in our last chance to get there right in time early in the morning of the first meeting, we were waiting at the gate of Delta airlines. It looked like we were going to make it. As they announced boarding to start soon, I told Bev I would be right back, as I ran to the nearby restroom. I rushed to the urinal, and as I stood there it hit me. An overwhelming smell of excrement. I looked down and just sticking out of the stall next to me were someone's pants full of poop. I tried not to breathe, washed my hands and ran out to my seat next to Bev. But as I sat there, I felt a deep stirring to do something. Without saying much, I reached into my carry-on bag and pulled out my favorite pants that I had packed. "What are you doing?" Bev asked with that puzzled and a bit disturbed look. "I'll be right back." Was all I had time for as I ran back into the restroom trying to hold my breath as long as I could.*

*I knocked on the door of the stall, "Hello, you need help in there?" "No thanks" Was all that was said from the other side. I thought of just returning to Bev, but I tried once more. "Look I have a spare pair of pants you can have" It was quiet for a moment, then finally the door opens and there stood a man, well into his 80's, he was visibly shaken. "Can you help me; I can't seem to get my pants on." He had cleaned up much of the mess, but now his pants legs had gotten twisted, so the wrong leg was in the wrong pant leg. I looked at it and realized we have to start over. "I think we have to take your pants off and get your pant legs straightened out." He said ok. I asked again if he wanted my fresh pants, but he said no. Amazingly he cleaned up his pants pretty good. So, there I was on my knees leaning into the toilet stall tugging his pants off. Others came into restroom, got one look and immediately turned and left. I can only imagine what it must have looked like to them. As I was on my knees in this mess, on my way to discern a new season of serving in ministry, I heard a quiet whisper, "You have been in messes yourself and have been helped in ways by others when you needed it the most, help him." It spoke to me in that moment and what my call was really about. I got the pants up and buckled, asked if he had family outside waiting, which he did. Quickly washing my hands, I joined Bev as she was graciously and anxiously waiting. And yes, we made it in time to our meetings.*

*It seems to me that Jesus was speaking to the lawyer then as He is to us today, with vision for what God's heart and way is for each of us, and for us together here as His family with Him, with each other and with those in our community and world.*

*I see three qualities of Jesus heart to guide us here in the season ahead of us.*

***I see Kailua Christian as a place that will continue to grow in being people of...***

***I. Healing; where care and recovery of brokenness can be received from God.***

*“But a Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion,<sup>34</sup> and came to him and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them;”  
Luke 10:33-34*

***II. Health; where changes to love God and others better is encouraged and developed.*** *“On the next day he took out two-denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, ‘Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return I will repay you.’” Luke 10:34-35*

***III. Helping; where we are empowered to help with God rather than just for God.*** *“Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?”<sup>37</sup> And he said, “The one who showed mercy toward him.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do-the same.”  
Luke 10:25-37*

***My question this morning; What in this vision may God be speaking to you about to encourage growth in your life? And for the Kailua Christian Church family?***

***What will be your next step?***

***My commitment to God and to you;***

*I will do my best to serve you with all God has given and taught me over the years for healing, health and helping. I will do my best to listen to what God is saying on the way and how He is leading us to become and to do what He desires for us together.*

*I will do my best to humbly and gratefully listen to you. I welcome opportunities to hear your hopes, dreams, struggles, and concerns. I will do my best to shepherd you into God's best for you and the Kailua family. I welcome your encouragement for me to grow as the person God made me to be as well. We are in this together.*

*I am certain that out of the rich gifting and experience you each bring to our gathering and humble hearts to love God and others, He has great plans for meaningful life and ministry within the church and in our world.*

*In the book of James, we are told that “all good gifts come from our Heavenly Father”. I believe it is our call to look to God with open and receptive hearts to all the good He is giving us, to equip and empower these gifts brought by you each as from God’s own heart.*

*Amen.*